this case was not approved and included in the Eighth Plan itself. The whole 8th Plan went; the whole 9th Plan went. In the 10th Plan now, Rs. 30 crores have been allocated. My simple question is this. PIB is also a Government outfit; it is not outside the Government. How is it that it took ten years' to identify a piece of land and to hand over that piece of land for construction? Now, can the hon. Minister give any specific time-frame within which this project would be completed?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: प्रणव दा, अगर आप मेरा पूरा जवाब सुन लेते तो शायद आप स्वयं यह मान लेते कि उनकी गलती नहीं थी, क्योंकि जो जमीन का टुकड़ा था उस जमीन के टुकड़े में, उस बंगले में, दो सांसदों की जमीन आती थी और दो सांसद उस कोठी में रह रहे थे। इसलिए बार-बार उनसे यह प्रार्थना की जाती थी कि या तो हम उन्हें दूसरी कोठियां दे देते, वे वहां शिफ्ट कर जाए ताकि यह जमीन दे दी जाए, लेकिन यह मसला इसलिए नहीं सुलझा क्योंकि हमारे ही सदन के दो माननीय सांसद वहां रहते थे। लेकिन मैं आपसे अब यह कह रही हूं कि अब हमको क्योंकि एक ऐसी जमीन दे दी गई है जिसको हमें फिजिकल पोजैशन देने में उन्हें किसी तरह की कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। तो टाइम फ्रेम में एक तारीख तो नहीं दे पा रही हूं लेकिन मैं आपके कह रही हूं कि बहुत जल्दी मीडिया सैन्टर को बना कर हम साकार स्वरूप दे देंगे।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is why it took eight years. From 1994 to 2002, in eight years, you could not resolve the problem and get an encumbrance-free piece of land! *(Interruptions)*...

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Press is very important. It is the Fourth Estate. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this National Press Centre—when it is completed—will function as an extension of the Ministry; or, are you going to get involved people from the Press, the journalists and others, who know what needs to be done in this modern age?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सभापति-जी, यह मंत्रालय का कार्यालय है, इसलिए काम तो मंत्रालय के अधीन ही करेगा, लेकिन जर्नलिस्ट्स के लिए होगा, फैसिलिटीज सारी जो दी जावेंगी वे पत्रकारों के लिए होंगी। लेकिन मंत्रालय का कार्यालय है इसलिए कार्यालय तो मंत्रालय के अधीन ही चलेगा।

Water shortage in South Delhi

*565. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of water in several areas in South Delhi during the last few months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of complaints have been received from residents of Pocket C-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi regarding inadequate and erratic water supply and tankers in the area; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to augment the water supply and provide water tankers in the area?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Delhi Jal Board has reported that during the last two weeks there is comparatively less availability of water in certain pockets of South Delhi situated at the tail end of the distribution system.

Yes, Sir. Complaints of short supply of water have been received by Delhi Jal Board from C-II Pocket of Vasant Kunj. However, drinking water is supplied through tankers in short supply areas.

It has been indicated by Delhi Jal Board that supply of water has been increased in this area from Central Reservoir and further supplemented through additional water tankers deployed in this area.

To augment the water supply in the area, several short term and long term measures have been taken, such as:—

(i) Laying of a new 600 mm dia water main in place of old one.

(ii) Increase in number of water tankers from 28 numbers at present to 36 numbers to supply drinking water in short supply area.

(iii) A 140 MGD Water Treatment Plan at Sonia Vihar is under construction and targeted for completion by the end of December, 2003, on completion of which, water supply in the area including C-II Vasant Kunj will improve.

श्री भगतराम मनहर: महोदय, पॉकेट सी-2 में 10 फ्लैट्स ऐसे हैं जिनके अगल-बगल सभी में पानी आता है, सिर्फ इन 10 फ्लैट्स में पांच-छः साल से पानी नहीं आता है। तो क्या उस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए आप कोई विशेष व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, actually 900 tankers have been arranged to supply water, out of which 297 tankers have been earmarked to supply water to Vasant Kunj itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.